# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:536
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
PATENT RIGHTS FOR AYURVEDIC MEDICINES
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware regarding the growing use and demand of Ayurvedic medicines in the country;

(b) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps to get patent rights for Ayurvedic medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not , the reasons therefor?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ayurvedic medicines made according to classical Ayurvedic texts cannot be patented as they are based on `prior art` and knowledge already available in public domain. However, a formulation based on new research or process can be patented. In order to prevent misappropiration of traditional Ayurvedic knowledge relating to medicinal plants. Government is implementing a project called `Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL),` under which, traditional knowledge about the medicinal plants as described in the ancient literature, is being transcribed in the five international languages, namely, English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish in digital format so that patents are not wrongfully granted for products based on the traditional medicinal knowledge.